

***California  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing***

***Meeting of  
November 6-7, 2002***

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:**           **PREP - 3**

**COMMITTEE:**                       **Preparation Standards**

**TITLE:**                               **Seventh Annual Report of the Committee on  
Accreditation**

  **X**   **Action**

       **Information**

  **X**   **Report**

**Strategic Plan Goal(s):**

**Goal 1:**       **Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification  
of professional educators**

- Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators
- Assess and monitor the efficacy of the Accreditation System, Examination  
System and State and Federal Funded Programs

**Presented By:**       **Lawrence Birch, Commission Staff, and Sue Teele and David  
Madrigal, Co-Chairs, Committee on Accreditation, 2001-2002**

**Prepared By:**       \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **Lawrence Birch, Ed.D.**  
                  **Administrator, Professional Services Division**

**Approved By:**       \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **Mary Vixie Sandy**  
                  **Director, Professional Services Division**

**Authorized By:**     \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **Dr. Sam W. Swofford**  
                  **Executive Director**



## **Seventh Annual Report of the Committee on Accreditation**

### **Professional Services Division**

**October 15, 2002**

#### **Executive Summary**

This agenda report includes two parts. Part one provides background information about the Committee on Accreditation and that committee's *Seventh Annual Accreditation Report* to the Commission, which is required by Education Code §44373 and the *Accreditation Framework*. The *Annual Report* summarizes the accomplishments, activities and plans of the Committee on Accreditation. The committee's accomplishments during the past year (2001-2002) are described in the context of its workplan. Plans for the current year (2002-2003) are presented as the proposed workplan for the committee. (The full report text is contained in Appendix A of this agenda item.) The second part of this item provides an update on four waivers granted by the Commission of the accreditation requirement of Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

#### **Fiscal Impact Analysis**

The expenses of the Committee on Accreditation are supported by the base budget of the Commission.

#### **Recommendation**

On behalf of the Committee on Accreditation, the staff recommends that the Commission receive the *Seventh Annual Accreditation Report* by the Committee on Accreditation.



# **Seventh Annual Report of the Committee on Accreditation**

## **Professional Services Division**

**October 22, 2002**

### **Part One: Committee on Accreditation Activities**

#### **Background Information on the Seventh Annual Report**

The Committee on Accreditation (COA) consists of 12 professional educators selected by the Commission for their distinguished records of accomplishment in education. The following responsibilities are delegated to the Committee on Accreditation under the Commission's *Accreditation Framework*:

The Committee shall . . . make decisions about the accreditation of educator preparation. The Committee's decision making process shall be in accordance with the *Accreditation Framework* adopted by the Commission.

The Committee shall . . . make decisions about the initial accreditation of new programs of educator preparation in accordance with procedures established by the Committee.

The Committee shall . . . determine the comparability of standards submitted by applicants with those adopted by the Commission, in accordance with the *Accreditation Framework*.

The Committee shall . . . adopt guidelines for accreditation reviews, and (shall) monitor the performance of accreditation teams and other aspects of the accreditation system.

The Committee shall . . . present an annual accreditation report to the Commission and respond to accreditation issues and concerns referred to the Committee by the Commission.

In establishing the Committee on Accreditation, the Commission did not cede any of its policymaking authority over the preparation of educators or the accreditation of institutions. Under SB 655 (Bergeson, Chapter 426, Statutes of 1993) and the *Accreditation Framework*, the Commission retains the exclusive authority and responsibility to adopt standards for educator preparation, and to make all other policy decisions that govern the system of professional accreditation in education. The COA is responsible for implementing the Commission's policies, enforcing the Commission's preparation standards and annually reporting its activities to the Commission.

The *Seventh Annual Accreditation Report* by the Committee on Accreditation (attached) focuses on the Committee's major efforts during 2001-2002 to accomplish its primary responsibility

under law: "make decisions about the accreditation of educator preparation." The *Report* reviews the Committee's implementation of that function in the accreditation visits conducted during the year.

The *Accreditation Report* also includes information about the Committee's second area of legal authority: "make decisions about the initial accreditation of new programs of educator preparation." The *Report* includes specific information about the committee's decisions during 2001-2002 to grant initial accreditation to new programs of professional preparation.

The *Accreditation Report* also presents a report on the 2001-2002 workplan for the Committee on Accreditation and the proposed workplan for 2002-2003. Summary information is given in the *Accreditation Report* about each institutional accreditation report and subsequent Committee on Accreditation action. Also included are all initial program accreditation actions of the Committee and all other accreditation actions.

The *Seventh Annual Accreditation Report* will be presented to the Commission by Sue Teele and David Madrigal, Committee on Accreditation Co-Chairs for 2001-2002. Following their presentation to the Preparation Standards Committee, they will be available to answer questions.

## **Part 2: Update on Institutions Having a Waiver of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Requirement**

### **Introduction and Background Information**

During the past 12 years, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has taken action to waive the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation requirement for institutions in the early stages of development. Under the provisions of Education Code Section 44225 (m) that grants the Commission waiver authority, waivers can be given to post-secondary institutions. One of the reasons given for granting waivers listed in Section 44225 is to “Provide other temporary exceptions when deemed to be appropriate by the Commission.”

In the past, the Commission has granted waivers with the understanding that such waivers are temporary, they enable educational institutions to meet the goals established by the state, and they provide significant help in addressing identified critical needs of schools and students. Additionally, there are accompanying mechanisms to assure that Commission standards are not lowered and preparation quality is maintained under the waiver provisions.

### **Update on Waivers Granted**

The following provides an update on the current status of the WASC accreditation requirement waiver granted by the Commission to four higher education institutions in the state – two campuses in the public California State University system, and two independent campuses – since 1994.

#### *National Hispanic University*

In 1994, the Commission granted a three-year waiver of the WASC accreditation requirement to National Hispanic University, in which time the institution was expected to achieve WASC Candidacy. The waiver included an acceptance of baccalaureate degrees awarded by the institution for credential purposes, the eligibility to submit one or more subject matter preparation programs and the eligibility to submit one or more professional preparation programs.

The institution subsequently received approval for the Liberal Studies subject matter program and the Multiple Subject CLAD/BCLAD Emphasis Credential program. At the time of the waiver, National Hispanic University had achieved WASC Eligibility. In 1997, the institution was granted a one-year extension of the waiver because candidacy had not yet been achieved. National Hispanic University earned WASC Candidacy in 1998. The institution was then granted an additional year of waiver in order for the Commission to review the results of the Committee on Accreditation on-site visit to be conducted in spring 1999 and subsequent revisit in spring 2000.

In 2000, the Committee on Accreditation removed the stipulations placed upon the institution in 1999. National Hispanic University was granted two additional years of waiver of regional accreditation by the Commission with the understanding that the full WASC accreditation visit

was scheduled for March 26-29, 2002. Following that 2002 site visit, the WASC Accreditation Commission granted regional accreditation to National Hispanic University.

*California State University, Monterey Bay*

In 1995, California State University, Monterey Bay was granted a waiver of the WASC accreditation requirement for an unspecified period of time. The waiver included an acceptance of baccalaureate degrees awarded by the institution for credential purposes, the eligibility to submit one or more subject matter preparation programs and the eligibility to submit one or more professional preparation programs.

The institution subsequently received approval for the Liberal Studies subject matter program and the Multiple Subject CLAD/BCLAD Emphasis Credential program. At the time of the waiver, California State University, Monterey Bay had achieved WASC Eligibility. In 1998, WASC Candidacy was earned. The COA conducted an on-site accreditation visit in 1998. Stipulations were placed upon the institution at that time and a successful accreditation re-visit was completed in 1999. The final site visits for full WASC accreditation are being held during the 2002-2003 academic year at CSU, Monterey Bay.

*Inter-American College*

In 2000, the Commission granted a waiver of the WASC accreditation requirement to Inter-American College. The institution was founded in 1996 and in 1999 was granted Eligibility by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for a term of three years. By achieving Eligibility, the institution completed the first step toward the process of accreditation. On that basis, the Commission granted the waiver. A stipulation of the waiver was that the institution would develop a partnering agreement with an accredited institution and that an annual report on the progress toward WASC candidacy would be provided. The institution provided a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding with California State University, San Marcos and has presented a report in each of the past two years. The institution subsequently had its elementary subject matter program approved as well as its Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credential Program. It is now in the process of meeting the SB 2042 requirements.

In the spring of 2002, Inter-American College had a WASC Candidacy visit. Although the decision was Denial of Candidacy, the institution's Eligibility Status was extended to June 30, 2004, with the opportunity to reapply for Candidacy. During the 2002-2003 year, the Committee on Accreditation plans to conduct a formative evaluation site visit in preparation for a full site visit in spring 2004.

*California State University, Channel Islands*

California State University, Channel Islands is the newest campus of the California State University system, having opened its doors in the fall of 2002. The institution was granted a waiver of the WASC accreditation requirement by the Commission in June of 2002 and is now in the process of having its initial programs reviewed and approved under the SB 2042 standards.



# **Appendix A**

## ***The Seventh Annual Accreditation Report*** **of the Committee on Accreditation**

